

Warm up with
these fine scents

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北京青年报
BEIJING YOUTH DAILY

China's Kickstarter



While the world has realized the power of crowd funding, the Kickstarter model has been a tough sell in China.

The creative team behind Jue So aims to change that.

Dubbed "crowd funding with Chinese characteristics," the site promises designers the resources and money needed to sustain their careers and turn their ideas into tangible products.

**Read more
on Pages 4-5**



Page 6

Movie is dark laughs

Wang Fen's first feature film turns a mid-life crisis into a dark commentary on society.

Page 3

Miracle for migrants

Despite limited resources, these schools are giving migrants' children the weapon they need to break free of poverty: education.



Subway network to add, expand four lines

By Zhao Hongyi

By the end of this month, Beijing will add 70 kilometers to its rapidly expanding subway network.

The first sections of the new Lines 6 and 9, as well as the second phases of Lines 8 and 10, will bring the city's metro length to just under 442 kilometers, surpassing Shanghai's total subway length.

Trains running on the new lines will have four self-driven cars with two large trailers to expand space during rush hour. Past lines all used six self-driven cars.

Like other modern lines, the latest lines will offer phone and Internet signals, according to the sources from the Beijing Railway Operational (BROC), which handles management and maintenance of all subway lines in the capital.

The new lines built in Beijing will have improved glass barricades to prevent passengers from falling onto the rails. The barricades can prevent accidents, such as the one in a New York subway that killed a Korean American last week.

Engineered for defense

Beijing began building its first subway line in the late 1960s while preparing for war with the former Soviet Union.

The two subway lines created by this project, Lines 1 and 2, were not put into use. Instead, the two served as evacuation tunnels to be used if the capital faced an attack by Soviet troops.

Major policy shifts by Deng Xiaoping in the 1980s led to the two subway lines being opened for public use. In the 1990s, the Batong extension of Line 1 was completed.

Since 2001, Beijing has seen a rapid expansion of its subway network with a focus on eco-transportation. Traffic authorities hope a stronger subway network can take a bite out of the explosive growth of private car ownership.

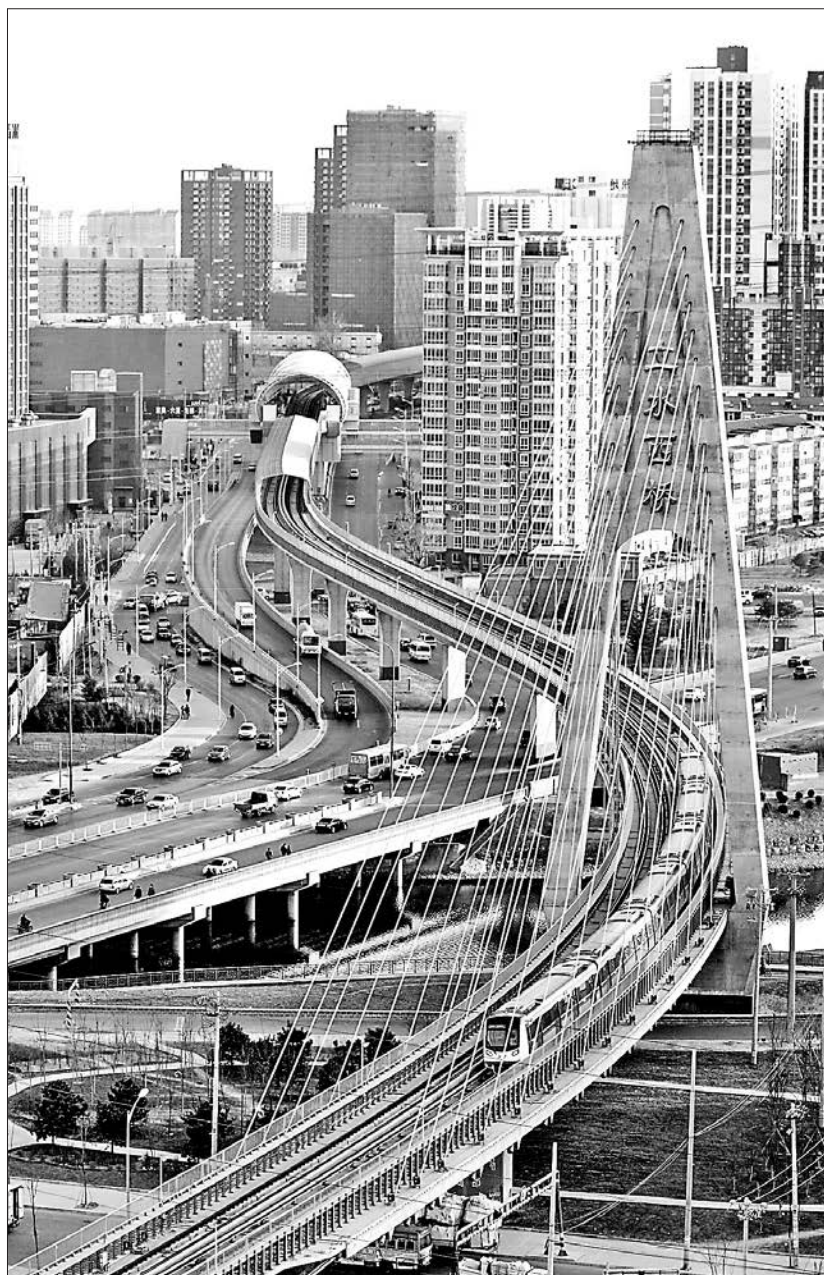
To date, the expansion project has resulted in the completed Lines 4, 5 and 13, the airport line, and the partial completion of Lines 8, 10, 14 and 15, which go to Changping, Fangshan, Daxing and Yizhuang respectively.

More lines coming

The municipal government seems committed to building a subway network to rival New York and London.

The most recent progress marks a milestone in the city's subway project. Another four lines will enter use in the middle of next year, including the second phase of Line 14, third phase of Line 8, a line connecting Changping to Badaling and the final phase of Line 10.

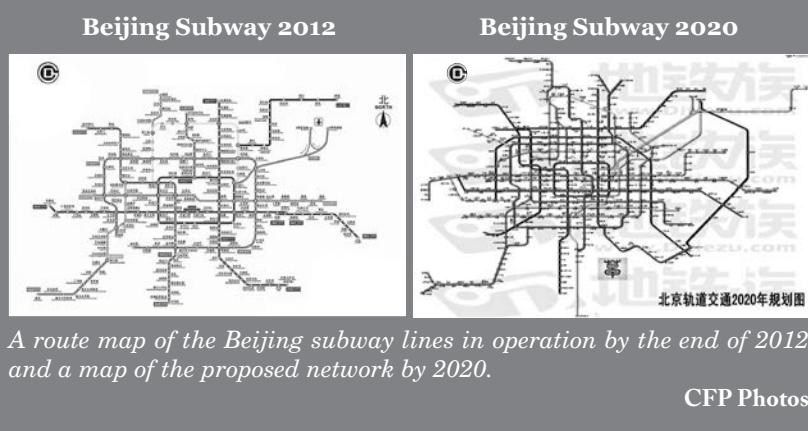
Other projects just beginning construction include the second phase of Line 6, the third phase of Line 8, a line to Beijing Daxing International Air-



Beijing is developing a complex subway network to connect the suburbs and its downtown.



Most of the new subway stations are decorated in Chinese style.



port, Line 3, Line 12 and an unnamed line in the east of the city.

It is expected that total subway lines in Beijing will exceed 660 kilometers by 2015, the end of the 12th Five-Year Plan; by 2020, it will exceed 1,000 kilometers.

The subway building boom is not limited to Beijing.

In addition to Shanghai and Guangzhou, many provincial capitals are building their own subway systems. New networks are underway in Tianjin, Chongqing, Hangzhou, Nanjing, Hefei, Guiyang, Shijiazhuang, Taiyuan, Lanzhou, Jinan and Urumqi.

A number of second-tier Chinese cities, such as Shenzhen, Xiamen, Foshan, Changzhou and Wenzhou, have expressed interest in subway projects.

It is estimated that more than 1,500 kilometers of subway lines are in operation in these cities, and another 2,500 kilometers will be put into operation by 2015, breaking the central government's goal of 3,000 kilometers during its 12th Five-Year Plan.

Problems for resolving

But the boom has left many cities grappling with problems in finance and safety.

Last year, a collapse in the Hangzhou subway left a dozen construction workers dead. Its Line 1, which entered operation this year, has been plagued by complaints of water leakage.

In addition, the layout of the subway is being questioned by the media.

Most cities with large networks have a central station that links together several subway and rail lines. However, Chinese subways seem far more random in their design, leading to repeated construction and waste.

Investment is becoming another eye-catching problem. The average cost of subway construction in Beijing is around 100 million yuan (\$16 million) per kilometer. Such a huge cost is forcing the government to seek private investment at home and abroad.

In 2008, Hong Kong Mass Transit Railways (MTR) invested 4 billion yuan in Beijing's network and obtained a 30-year license to operate Line 4.

On November 6, it agreed to invest another 15 billion yuan to construct Line 14 in Beijing in exchange for 30 years of operational control.

But investment return is scarce.

Unlike other cities, where the subway fare depends on how long you ride, Beijing has maintained a one-price policy of 2 yuan (33 cents) to ensure the network remains available and affordable.

Authorities hope that with the management of BROC and MTR of both the lines and properties up above the lines, the subways will be profitable enough to pay back the overseas investors and banks.

How migrant schools succeed

By Bao Chengrong

In spite of their limited access to subsidies and rapid teacher turnover, some schools for migrants are working miracles for China's disadvantaged children.

Guangzhou Avenue South Primary School is among them.

Liu Jiguo, its headmaster, used to canvass the streets looking for prospective students. This year, he had hundreds of migrant workers lined up at his gate to enroll their children.

He and four other headmasters from Beijing, Kunming, Suzhou and Chengdu shared their tips on how to make a difference in students' lives by New Citizen Program, an NGO that strives to improve the conditions of migrants' children.

All-around development

While it's true that the schools open to migrants may lack the facilities of state-run schools, they also lack the pressure to prepare for exams.

In place of cramming, migrant schools help students build a comprehensive skill set.

Pan Xinming, headmaster of Beijing Hongshan Primary School, said it is important to identify and promote the migrant children's abilities. While an 8-year-old urban child may be able to follow his or her parents to deal with banking, migrant children cannot. His school fills in the gaps.

At Shuxing Foreign School, headmistress Zhong Wenjun encourages her students to participate in social activities that improve the community. Children gather to confront reckless drivers, ask nearby restaurants to refrain from using recycled cooking oil and expose vendors that sell cigarettes to minors.

"They managed to drive away a lot of the more shady vendors," Zhong said. "These small achievements build their communication skills and help them to identify right and wrong."

Other schools focus on mental health.

At Shuangjiang Primary School in Shanghai, the school has a team of mental health specialists that trains teachers to identify and aid students who appear most in need of support, said Zhou Jiping, director of the Shanghai Migrant Children Education Professional Commission.

"Migrant workers often have little time for their children due to their busy hours. They are unable to teach their children on their own. Children from divorced families have it the hardest," Zhou said.

Zhong's school had a problem with male bullies who were



Students at Beijing Hongshan Primary School, a school for the children of migrant workers.

CFP Photo



The year's best headmasters receive their rewards.

Photo provided by New Citizen Program

fighting on the school grounds. When Zhong found out they were all basketball fans, she persuaded the school's owner to invest in a basketball court and a coach.

With their energy spent on athletics, brawling vanished and the boys eventually went on to attend technical secondary schools.

Cultivating good teachers

Good teachers are the foundation of any school. At the schools for migrants, they must be developed from scratch.

More than 60 percent of the teachers have complained of low pay, excessive work hours and a lack of promotion and career developing opportunities, according to New Citizen Program's research.

With the support of the Narada Foundation, the organization has been developing better courses for migrants and their communities, and supporting teachers with a stipend of 800 yuan.

All five headmasters said

salaries at migrants' schools will never be able to compete with state-run schools. Most try to treat their good teachers well and provide them with free training opportunities.

Liu Jiguo organizes activities every month to allow teachers to relax.

That's necessary, because in addition to the training sessions provided by the Guangzhou government, his teachers also have to attend a 90-minute training session every Tuesday afternoon, develop their knowledge of specific subjects and write reflections and educational stories each week.

Zhong Shengbin, the headmaster of Mingying Primary School, promised his teachers that they could be promoted to management positions within three to five years. Some plan to develop their teaching experience into a future business. Zhong's experience of being a disabled former migrant worker also moved quite a few teachers to stay.

An excellent teacher should be able to reach out and communicate with his students' parents, Zhong said. He must respect migrant workers, listen to their concerns and help guide them in ensuring a child's education continues at home.

New Citizen Program reported that fewer than 25 percent of migrant workers continued their children's lessons at home, fewer than 10 percent read stories to their children and fewer than 20 percent took their children out to play.

Community education

With the family component of education missing, the schools reach out to the community.

80 percent of migrant children like community activities, according to the research of New Citizen Program.

Though community education – especially for migrants – is something new in China, a number of NGOs have stepped up.

Farmer's Son, a local NGO under Beijing Normal University, arranges activities where children can read poems, watch movies, sell goods at charity bazaar and go on nature hikes. It has an education base in Miyun County where the children can go for seven days of hiking and games.

Compassion for Migrant Children (CMC), an international NGO, has five community education centers in Beijing, one in Shanghai and several more in Hong Kong, London and the US.

Life-Vocational Skills Training Program is a four-month-

long training targeting teen migrants between the ages of 16 and 20.

After School Program, Super Saturdays Program, Open House Weekend Program, You are Special Program and other activities are designed to enrich the social life of migrant children between the ages of 6 and 13.

In addition, CMC arranges sports programs to keep students fit and workshops to help them build their relationship with their parents.

Last year, CMC co-built a Dynamic Cube, a movable community center made of containers. The center is 2,700 square meters and located in Dark Bridge Art Center in the suburbs of Beijing. It has a computer room, a library, a large outdoor stadium and four classrooms, and offers weekly classes to both children and adults.

But in spite of the success, many schools for migrants' children face closure. Xu Xiangguan, headmaster of Suzhou Yihai Migrant Children School, said the local government is already eyeing his school's land for expansion of the city's Huqiu Scenic Spot.

Though it's hard to emulate the success of Liu and the other headmasters, migrant schools must try. Through offering high-quality education services, they will grow and win the support of the government and public, said Tang Xiaojie, deputy director of Non-government Education Institute Shanghai Academy of Education Sciences.

Design smart

Public funding platform for makers

By Liu Xiaochen

Crowd-funding websites are fraught with peril – as even the well-established Kickstarter can tell you – as scammers and frauds usually lurk.

But three men in Shanghai have tailored the idea to a specific industry, and might have created just the right crowd-funding website with Chinese characteristics.

Original idea of Jue So

Chen Junbing has always been interested in the culture and design industry, even though he wasn't in it himself. He would always mingle with artists in different fields, and through conversations with them, realized that they all had creative ideas that only needed a platform for dissemination.

That's how he came up with the idea for Jue So.

"I wanted a place for people to design what they really want," Chen said. "This is how they can create the most pure creations, and hopefully the best products."

He teamed up with Huan Jingyu, a creative advertiser he met on the Internet, and together they pitched the idea to Ting, their investor. The three of them founded Jue So last year, and launched the website earlier this spring.

As China's first crowd-funding website for the creative industry, Jue So (jue.so) lets designers and artists place their products onto the site and receive feedback and even funding from the general public.

"Problems exist in the implementation of designs," said Huan, who has worked as an advertiser for a foreign-invested enterprise. "It's difficult for designers to produce their own designs. Many large factories don't accept small orders. And during the production process, it's hard for designers to control the quality, which results in a large discrepancy between their design and the finished product."

He has also met several independent designers struggling to get more recognition for their work.

So his goal was to integrate available resources to help finish products and promote them, eventually selling them online.

Operational mode

The three co-founders drew on the experience of Kickstarter, which gives anyone the chance to solicit money to pursue their dream projects.

"Crowd funding can really help designers solve practical problems, because money is a very serious problem for them," Huan said.

He said the team is more concerned about how to generate good ideas through the platform and help designers realize dreams than to make a website that looks good.

In addition to seeking funding, Jue So also gives people a chance to display their works and ideas.

For every product that is successfully

delivered to customers, Jue So's staff makes a survey asking customers to review their experience. They can also deliver feedback to designers directly.

"We pre-order designers' works and put them into production," Huan said. "So it's important to get customer feedback and understand what they want to buy."

The company's first sell was a mahogany flash disk designed by a domestic team called Then. The designers modified their product after getting feedback, and created a finer package with a larger storage volume and more styles.

Two months later, Then sold its second batch.

"We focus on cultural creations and designs," Huan said. "There are many portals in the design industry, but designers can't produce items by themselves, nor can they interact with customers. They can realize these behaviors on Jue So."

The company has expanded to include about 20 people in charge of technology, sales and marketing. It has publicized more than 80 projects, about half of which sold products. Jue So gets 10 percent from successful projects.

Current situation and plans

"It's difficult to do crowd funding in China because it's new here," Chen said. "The main purpose for our site is to help designers. When their needs are solved, their works' value will be evident."

Chen said Shanghai's design community isn't as big as Beijing's, so he still often encounters roadblocks.

"Designers aren't closely knit," he said. "The design circle is more commercialized. Many are graduates from art schools, and they're changing careers because the market doesn't give them opportunities."

"We're confident about our platform because the need is there."

Chen hopes to eventually establish branches in Beijing.

The other big problem is that it's difficult, if not impossible, to protect designers' copyright. That is, other people could steal the ideas they see online.

But the team is slowly working their way through these problems. They are trying to improve in all facets, including promotion, sales, building relationships with factories, improving display space, advertising online and setting up offline shops.

They plan to promote Jue So next year in Hong Kong and Taiwan, and from there, go global.





1



2

inland designers



3



4



5



6

1. Zisha teapot designed by Waterhouse Studio

2. Little Feet Monster cup designed by Waterhouse Studio

3. Power of Upward designed by Waterhouse Studio

4. Desk designed by furniture brand Mumo

5. Uriash & Cora of MIRAGE series designed by Models Studio

6. Another Little Feet Monster designed by Waterhouse Studio

7. China lights Snowlight by Jin Shen

8. Mahogany flash disk designed by Then

9. Christmas bamboo brooch designed by Li Zhiqian from Colourphilosophy Studio
Photos provided by Jue So



7

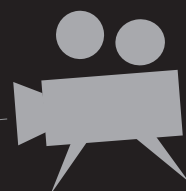


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The Case a darkly comic portrait of modern China



By Chen Nan

Wang Fen is a young director who expresses herself with a distinct style.

Her films, often inspired by scenes of Lijiang, offers biting insight into unfulfilled desires, repressed needs and shattered hopes. Each is a look into the loneliness and anxiety of modern society.

The Case, her latest award-winning work, explores a midlife-crisis through a dark comedy.

The Case is a tale of loneliness, desire and the emotional paralysis that comes with age and security.

Its story begins with a couple that runs a hostel in Shuhe, an small town near Lijiang, Yunnan Province. He Dashang, the man, is suffering a mid-life crisis and has become apathetic to everything.

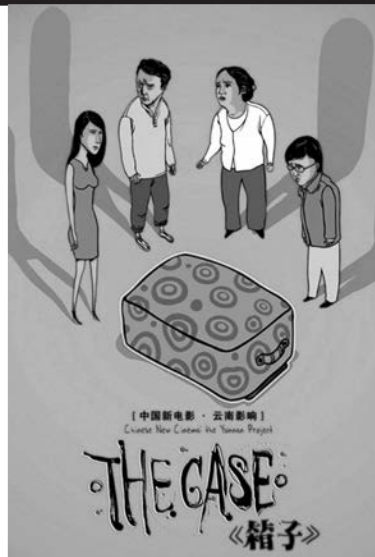
But the discovery of a luggage case floating down the river becomes the catalyst to kickstart his life. After He takes it home and hides in his garden shed, life begins to change.

Annoyed by the new secret, his wife becomes increasingly intolerant of her husband's "too comfortable" and sneaking attitude. As she becomes more annoying, He's attentions turn to an attractive young tenant who has aroused his sexual interest.

Then the lies begin to pile up.

The confrontational conversations are some of the film's most humorous moments, even though comedy is not Wang's forte.

"It's funny and desperately sad at the same time. It captures the desolation of contemporary life and



shows how people have no choice other than to forgive and accept," Wang said.

The Case is Wang's first feature film. Rather than providing grand visuals, she crafts a suspenseful and twisted plot inspired by Shuhe itself.

The town is characterized by its dilapidation and rot. It automatically gives the movie a mysterious, helpless feeling.

In 2005, the producer Luo La launched a project to bring female directors to Yunnan to shoot films that reflected the local conditions. Wang was among the 10 selected.

While most chased after a way to copy *The Myth*, a 2005 martial arts fantasy filmed in Lijiang, Wang was taken by the serenity of the old town and its air of weariness, adultery and tension.

Wang was born in a small town in Jiangxi Province. When she was 16, she became involved in the art circles and was later admitted to a private art school in Shanghai.

She initially majored in acting, and made frequent appearances in advertisements.

During her years as an actress, she observed the creation of films from different angles and found she was more comfortable working behind the scenes. A few directors advised her to study acting or directing, and Wang enrolled in the Shandong Arts Institute.

Wang rented a digital video camera and began recording the trivial things she saw each day. When she was 22, she shot her first film: *Joyless Man is Not Alone*, a documentary about her parents' shattered relationship.

After 40 years of marriage, the two fought bitterly in front of their daughter's camera. The film won an award at the Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival in Japan.

The success inspired her interest in documentary film.

"Filming documentaries was like training for me. It helped me learn to sense the subtle relationships between people and see where there was trouble and distrust," she said.

It was her portrayal of a beleaguered suburban male in Yunnan that resonated with viewers the most.

"Humorous, painful and brutally frank, the film hits China right at its heart. The fast-paced, modern society has left people anxious, desperate and distrustful of one another," Wang said. She said the desolation and hopelessness of her film has become universal.

Wang is working on the script for her next movie that will follow 10 characters who each face their own dilemma. She was not willing to divulge too many details: only that it would show the worst aspects of modern life.

And that might be the punch in the face that viewers want.

Photos provided by Wang Fen

Wines for the holidays

By Annie Wei

You can expect lots of gatherings with family and friends in the next two months as people celebrate Christmas, New Year's, and Spring Festival. Impress them with these wines.

Better wines for less than 100 yuan

On Wednesday, wine and nightlife blogger Jim Boyce hosted the fourth Grape Wall Challenge at F by Tribute, a new restaurant on Sanlitun South Street.

As usual, the event invited 10 to 20 average consumers and experts to blind-taste and rate 10 wines that retail for less than 100 yuan.

Boyce said the goal of the event is to find good cheap wines and raise local consumers' confidence, which should be not bounded by so-called experts' recommendations and preferences.

He said there should be more options at lower price ranges for wine novices.

The event featured 20 white and 20 red wines. Ma Huiqin, a wine professor at China Agriculture University and one of the judges, said he was pleased to find some decent reds for cheap.

Some bottles received good feedback, such as a 2011 Pinotage from South Africa.

"It's surprising that Pinotage can be so sweet and suitable to Chinese tastes," said Liang Bo, a sommelier and wine lecturer.

Other bottles, such as a Merlot from Sunrise and La Joya's cabernet sauvignon from Chile, also got quite a few rave reviews.

Boyce will post results and other recommendations on his website, grapewallofchina.com.



Wines are nice decoration for holidays.



Photos provided by Jim Boyce

Expert recommendations for French wines

Although French wines have a reputation for quality and diversity, quite a few are overrated in China.

To learn more, we joined a wine tasting event hosted by Wines of France, a campaign that aims to introduce French wines of different regions to wider audiences.

The lecturer, Noel Qi, came from Taiwan. He spent eight years drinking French wine from six French regions.

"There is no good or bad about wines, it depends on a drinker's preference," Qi said.

For people who like simple, sour and fruity flavors, they can start with Chinon Domaine Sourdais-Taveau from Loire (200 yuan).

Beaujolais is a region that hasn't gotten too much attention in recent years, but they also produce quality wines, Qi said. He recommends Chateau des Jaques Loius Jadot Moulin-a-Vent from Beaujolais (around 475 yuan).

For people who like more delicate and complicated flavors from popular regions like Bourgogne and Bordeaux, they can try Faiveley Nuits-Saint-Georges 1er Cru Les Porets-Saint-Georges from Bourgogne (990 yuan) and Chateau Les Ormes de Pez St-Estephe from Bordeaux (starting from 428 yuan).

And two good wines for their price are Guigal Gigondas from Vallee du Rhone (285 yuan) and Robert Skalli F. from Languedoc-Roussillon (600 yuan).

Pearson Longman English World

pieces of + N

Chinese / Cantonese uses classifiers such as 塊 / 隻 in front of nouns, but this is not done in English. You just say '100 watches'.

raise up / raise

- ✗ The teacher told us to raise up our hands.
- ✓ The teacher told us to raise our hands.

The verb 'raise' means to 'put up'. So 'up' is not necessary with 'raise' in the way it is with 'put':

- ✓ The teacher told us to put up our hands.

Exercise

The following sentences are all ungrammatical. Choose which word is unnecessary and delete it.

1. We bought six pieces of DVDs.
2. I hope they don't raise up the price.

Answers: 1. pieces of 2. up



Book title

Common English Errors in Hong Kong (New Edition) 是一本专门为香港初、中级英文水平的学生所编写的自学教材。本书指出并纠正大量本地学生所常犯的英文文法与字法使用上的错误，并附有非常生动活泼的插图，深受青少年学生的青睐。

BEIJING TODAY



By Annie Wei

However, it's dangerous to light too many candles in a poorly ventilated room. And many candles on the market have further drawbacks, such as drying up the air, or emitting a foul odor toward the end. They are made of cheaper materials such as paraffin, and usually available at places like flower markets and IKEA.

The newest trend is to buy soy wax candles, which are available online and a few select stores.

Paraffin is a side-product of petrol-carbon, which can blacken walls and generate toxic carcinogens. But soy wax, made from soybeans, a renewable source, has a much lower ignition temperature, making it safer, cleaner and longer-lasting.

If you're into wax massage, we recommend the brand ECOYA from Australia (starting from 378 yuan). Just apply the melting wax on your skin and rub gently.

ECOYA has a few classic scents such as French pear, mixed with vanilla and herbals; ginger and lemongrass with a Southeast Asian twist; and lilies with sweet and creamy touch.

Websites:

ECOYA
WILD FRANGIPANI
NATURAL WAX
SCENTED CANDLE
BOTANY BAY, AUSTRALIA

ECOYA, starting from 378 yuan

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